

Policy and Operations. Bonnie earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Maryland and a masters of business administration from Loyola University of Maryland. She also holds a number of professional certifications, including certified public accountant, certified government financial manager, certified defense financial manager, and certified acquisition professional.

Congress depends on the extensive expertise of dedicated public servants like Bonnie Kind. I extend my appreciation and congratulations to her for 40 years of dedicated service to the American people. I wish her the best in her retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR REGINA RUSH-KITTLE

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Maj. Regina Rush-Kittle, a dedicated veteran and law enforcement officer whose strength and commitment to her community, her State, and her Nation merited her induction into the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame this November.

Her life and career have been a series of firsts. She is an amazing, tenacious, goal-oriented person who sets high standards for herself and for others. She is well-regarded by her peers and recognized for her willingness to always give more than 100 percent.

Major Rush-Kittle moved with her family to Middletown, CT, as a young girl. She attended Middletown High School, after which she pursued a political science degree at the University of Connecticut. She subsequently obtained a master's in criminal justice at Western New England College.

While at college, Major Rush-Kittle joined the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, where she served for 3 years. She then transferred to the Army Reserves, where she continued to serve her country for more than two decades. During that time, she was mobilized during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Impressively, Major Rush-Kittle earned the Bronze Star Medal during her tour of duty for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, where she served as the command sergeant major of the 321st Military Intelligence Battalion of Texas. She retired from the Reserves after 30 years of dedicated service.

As amazing and stellar as her career serving our country, it is her law enforcement career where Major Rush-Kittle truly made her mark.

Her interest in law enforcement arose when she began working as a corrections officer at the the York Correctional Institution, a high-security women prison in Niantic, CT. Her passion for public safety and determination to knock down barriers to female advancement would lead Major Rush-Kittle to become the first Black female patrol officer for the Middletown Po-

lice Department, as well as the first Black female drill sergeant and command sergeant major in that organization.

Continuing to shatter barriers, Major Rush-Kittle transferred to the Connecticut State Police, where she was the first African-American woman to become a State police sergeant, then a State police lieutenant, and then a major in the history of this proud and storied department. She also was the first to command a police barracks.

Her devotion to serving the Connecticut State Police led her to enroll in the 244th Session of the the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA. She also headed the Connecticut State Police Academy. Her studies, experiences, and devotion to law enforcement have made her a role model for her peers.

Now retired from military service and law enforcement, Major Rush-Kittle is a credit to the State of Connecticut and the country thanks to her unfailing sense of duty and readiness to break barriers. I am pleased that she is an integral part of a team of military and veteran volunteers who assist me in reviewing candidates to our military academies.

I applaud her many accomplishments and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Major Rush-Kittle for her well-earned induction into the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame.●

RECOGNIZING KINDRED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

• Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I want to congratulate the students, faculty, and parents of Kindred Elementary School, located in Kindred, ND, on being awarded the 2017 National Blue Ribbon School Award.

Founded in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students' academic achievement. A National Blue Ribbon Schools flag overhead has become a mark of excellence in education recognized by everyone from parents to policymakers in thousands of communities. Since the program's founding, the U.S. Department of Education has bestowed this coveted award to more than 8,500 of America's best schools.

Kindred Elementary School serves nearly 460 students and was one of three schools in North Dakota to be designated as an Exemplary High Performing School under this award. Receiving recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School signifies the hard work and dedication of the educators, students, and parents involved, and I have no doubt the students at Kindred Elementary are on a path to success. Kindred Elementary hires and retains highly effective teachers that operate using professional learning communities. This allows school staff to collaborate on a daily basis and develop

methods for continuous improvement based on student data and progress. To support its students, the school uses a multitiered approach called response-to-intervention, RtI, that offers timely support to students' academic and behavioral needs. The RtI team consists of classroom teachers, special education teachers, speech and occupational therapy staff, and other key staff. Kindred's innovative approach and commitment to developing student potential has resulted in high student outcomes that we can all be proud of.

School leadership states the "school district thrives because of the strong relationship between students, their families, community members, and the school district staff." To further the communal relationship, the school offers enrichment opportunities through lyceums, field trips, and guest presenters and performers. It is through this dedication that the school provides a tailored education that allows student, staff, and faculty to succeed.

The Kindred Public School District's mission statement reads, "Improving tomorrow, by learning today." This mission embodies all that Kindred Elementary is working to accomplish by looking at the needs of each individual student, as well as providing a safe and respectful learning environment that breeds success. I wish the very best to the community of Kindred and congratulations to all engaged at Kindred Elementary for achieving this high honor. Thank you for your commitment to our children and leaders of tomorrow.●

RECOGNIZING LEGACY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

• Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I want to congratulate the students, faculty, and parents of Legacy Elementary School, located in West Fargo, ND, on being awarded the 2017 National Blue Ribbon School Award.

Founded in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students' academic achievement. A National Blue Ribbon Schools flag overhead has become a mark of excellence in education recognized by everyone from parents to policymakers in thousands of communities. Since the program's founding, the U.S. Department of Education has bestowed this coveted award to more than 8,500 of America's best schools.

Legacy Elementary School serves nearly 540 students and was one of three schools in North Dakota to be designated as an Exemplary High Performing School under this award. Receiving recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School signifies the hard work and dedication of the educators, students, and parents involved, and I have no doubt the students at Legacy are on a path to success. The school has received the Let's Move Active Schools

National Award and the Star Award from their local Dakota Medical Foundation. These awards show Legacy's dedication towards promoting health and wellness among students and staff. Such health strategies include building wide flexible seating and personalized learning spaces, movement built into their curriculum, along with multiple health snack and food options and initiatives, which work to build both short- and long-term healthy habits for students.

As school leadership states, "At Legacy, our school Mission is: Educate. Our school Vision is: Everyone Learns." It is through this dedication that Legacy helps students excel academically, physically, emotionally, socially, and culturally. The school does so by often writing their own curricula to ensure they teach what fits students' needs and implementing programs that grow skills such as critical thinking, perseverance, problem solving, and sportsmanship. The innovation shown by the faculty at Legacy serves as a model that all schools can look towards when finding new ways to promote student growth and development.

The West Fargo Public Schools' mission statement reads, "Educating today's learners for tomorrow's world." This mission embodies all that Legacy Elementary is working to accomplish by looking at the needs of each individual student, as well as providing a healthy and respectful learning environment that breeds success. I wish the very best to the community of West Fargo and congratulations to all engaged at Legacy Elementary for achieving this high honor. Thank you for your commitment to our children and leaders of tomorrow.●

RECOGNIZING LONGFELLOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

● Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I want to congratulate the students, faculty, and parents of Longfellow Elementary School, located in Fargo, ND, on being awarded the 2017 National Blue Ribbon School Award.

Founded in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students' academic achievement. A National Blue Ribbon Schools flag overhead has become a mark of excellence in education recognized by everyone from parents to policymakers in thousands of communities. Since the program's founding, the U.S. Department of Education has bestowed this coveted award to more than 8,500 of America's best schools.

Longfellow Elementary School serves nearly 370 students and was one of three schools in North Dakota to be designated as an Exemplary High Performing School under this award. Receiving recognition as a National Blue

Ribbon School signifies the hard work and dedication of the educators, students, and parents involved, and I have no doubt students at Longfellow are on a path to success. At Longfellow Elementary, every educator serves multiple roles in their students' day-to-day activities. To best support its students, families are heavily involved in the school and its functions. Unlike many schools in the Nation, Longfellow Elementary enjoys strong engagement and support from their students' parents, making them a shining example of how our public schools can thrive through robust community support.

Longfellow is one of two elementary schools in the Fargo Public School District that provides an educational setting for students with a wide range of impairments that require extra attention. The multiple impairments magnet program provides speech, occupational, and physical therapy services to students. Cass County Public Health supports the program with regular visits by a nurse, and a music therapist visits with the class two times a week. It is through the Longfellow community that the school has been able tailor the teaching to their students' needs.

The Longfellow's vision includes, "Equitable opportunities will ensure a quality educational experience to stimulate and support all students in their intellectual, social, and personal growth." This vision statement embodies all that Longfellow Elementary is working to accomplish by including parents and family in their discussions. I wish the very best to the community of Fargo and congratulations to all engaged at Longfellow Elementary for achieving this high honor. Thank you for your commitment to our children and leaders of tomorrow.●

TRIBUTE TO VIRGIL BERNERO

● Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I wish to pay special tribute to my friend, Virgil Bernero, who will be ending his service as mayor of Lansing, MI, at the end of this year.

This is a special opportunity for me to recognize Virg's outstanding service to the people of Lansing. I have represented Lansing throughout my years in public service, so I have had the opportunity to work closely with Virg.

Virg and I share something in common: We both began our public service careers as an Ingham County commissioner, State representative, and State senator. He was first elected mayor of Lansing in 2005. He has served with a unique passion and energy for public service. He is devoted to his family and has worked on behalf of families he has represented with the same devotion and commitment.

While mayor, Virg led Lansing through the recession and, despite facing major budget shortfalls, was able to maintain 12 consecutive balanced budgets and produce a budget surplus during each of the last 3 years.

He led efforts to attract new business investments in the city, including a \$182 million repurposing of a former electric powerplant into the headquarters of a major national insurance company. He worked to foster regional cooperation and economic development efforts and led the creation of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, the Lansing area's first regional economic development public-private partnership.

During the automotive crisis, Virg organized Michigan mayors and led a passionate and aggressive defense of the American auto industry, which is one of Lansing and mid-Michigan's backbone industries. He founded and led the Manufacturing Alliance of Communities, a national coalition of mayors that worked to secure Federal support for our automobile industry. Since that time, General Motors has invested more than \$1 billion in their Lansing facilities and recently moved production of the Chevrolet Camaro from Canada to the Lansing Grand River assembly plant.

I am grateful for Virg's friendship and congratulate him on his years of extraordinary service. I wish him and his family all the best as he begins this new chapter in his life.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to titles II and V of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, and asks a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and that the following Members be the managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. NUNES, Mr. ROSKAM, Mrs. BLACK, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. NEAL, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. DOGGETT.

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of section 20003 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. WALDEN, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

From the Committee on Natural Resources, for consideration of sections 20001 and 20002 of the Senate amendment and modifications committed to conference: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 371. An act to make technical changes and other improvements to the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017.